


12-1-1918

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Recommended Citation

Special Libraries Association, "Special Libraries, December 1918" (1918). *Special Libraries, 1918*. 9.
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Special Libraries

VOL. 9

DECEMBER 1918

No. 10

Mortality Among Books

A Study of the Struggle for Existence in the World of Print

By J. H. FRIEDEL

THE DEATH OF A FRIEND

Not very long ago one of my best friends died. He had been always well, so that his unexpected death came as a bolt out of the blue above. For years and years he had given himself entirely and devotedly to his life-work as an architect. Unremittingly and unceasingly he had toiled, had dreamed and planned and lived the life beautiful; then, in less than an hour, he had died and was gone from our midst forever. I see the funeral now in my mind's eye vividly, yet as in a dream—the sable hearse, the pall-bearers, the continued windings of the cortege threading its way through the city's busy streets, the hurried drive over the bridge, with the water and ships below, the green fields, the great gate and the wide arch at the entrance to the cemetery, the long rows of weeping willows, the gravestones projecting over the hill-tops. A sudden turn in the road and we were beside the open grave. I cannot forget my feelings as the last earthly remains of him who had been so dear to me were lowered into their final resting place.

As I looked about me and saw the earth, the stones and trees that had been in that place for centuries, I could not help asking myself, "Can it be that these inanimate things should exist here forever, and man, the cunning, the supreme, who fashions them and uses them to serve his purpose and his will, should perish and be dead in a moment?" The thought in that sacred place seemed strangely sacrilegious, and I tried to drive it from my mind. As we rode back to the city, however, the same idea that mortar and bricks, stones and trees are in their way superior to man kept recurring incessantly. "Man comes and tills the earth and lies beneath." For days and days the question came back: Does man die and are the inanimate objects about him immortal? Is the earth which

he daily treads under his feet and which in the end lies over him burying him and his, superior to him?

THE DEATH OF A BOOK

Tired in body but feverishly active mentally, I returned to my work in the library. Work, hard work, I had been told, is the best medicine to insure forgetfulness. But here the old question came back. The first morning at work I ran across an old government document, an edict of King Ur-Nina of Lagash relating to the building of certain temples and canals. The date of the document showed that it had existed for at least six thousand years. Six thousand years! The number sped quickly through my mind, arousing a hundred slumbering thoughts. If the average life of a man is, as science tells us, thirty-five years, then in a hundred years there will be three generations. In other words, if I stood at the end of a century, my great-grandfather would stand at its beginning. If I ran this process back one hundred and seventy times, allowing thirty-five years to each life-cycle, I should come to the generation that I lived at the time this edict was written! I looked with increasing curiosity at the document with its strange cuneiform script, examining it incredulously but with interest. Never had it meant so much to me. Here this lifeless thing was alive to-day, six thousand years old. I had the power to destroy it; yet if I left it alone it might possibly exist for another six thousand years; it might live long after my bones had crumbled. What was the vanity of life then? Why all this wild haste, this mad rush to do and be? Was it not after all an effort to compete with the inanimate, a struggle to outlive a stick, a stone or a block of wood?

The other day I picked up an old book of the days of Good Queen Bess of England. The book had had in its day a most

remarkable circulation and had been known throughout the length and breadth of the realm. It had moved more men and women than any play of the great contemporary dramatist Shakespeare; than any essay of the noted prose writer, Bacon; than any sermon of the numerous religious pamphleteers of the day. I looked through its pages curiously, trying all the while to picture in my mind the city of London and the life of its people at that time. Again I examined this two-penny pamphlet, trying to guess the causes of its popularity. What had given it its position of sudden eminence? Yet here, this very day, as for months and years before, this book was lying on our shelves, old and dusty, unused and unknown to almost all of the thousands of readers that came each day to the library, dead to all purposes. And the question came to my mind quickly—when did this book die? Who went to its funeral? Does man really live, and the inanimate things, do they serve his purpose and perish at his will? The question, which is neither shallow nor sentimental, is of interest to all men and women as well as to all lovers of books.

THE STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE AMONG BOOKS

As among animals and men, so among books, the struggle for existence is keen and merciless in its severity. As Nature has endowed its many orders of vegetable and animal life with various means that they may the better compete in the great effort for survival, so every author has given something to his books, the pet coinage of his individual intellect, that they, too, may battle successfully in the grim struggle for life. One book may be sentimental, another patriotic, one known for its realism, another for its romanticism; one for its beauty of expression, another for its depth of thought. Each distinguishing faculty, like the tendrils of a plant, serves to wind it closer about the sympathies, the affection, the reason of those to whose attention it may come. This, then, is what gives virility, what gives life to every book.

It is axiomatic that a chain is as strong as its weakest link. Similarly it may be stated that the life of a book depends upon its hold on those that read. A book without this hold is like a wall without a prop. So, an author writing for a certain generation, a certain class or type or nation, will live only for the few. Thus we find Ben Johnson, the idol of the London populace for whom he wrote, outstripped in fame and outlived by his contemporary, Shakespeare, who wrote for all time.

Universality of appeal, then, is one of

the prime qualities that will give permanence to a book. Another is truth. Truth is ever stable and durable, and those books which are true or have a close semblance to reality will the better be able to resist the effects of time. So it is that the teachings of many a man live to-day, although his nation and his people may have long since passed from the face of this earth.

Closely akin to truth is the quality of goodness. Though evil will perhaps never disappear entirely, and though there doubtless will always be something which will be opposed to the good, the possession of the quality of goodness in an eminent degree by a book will assure its existence. Although history tells us that there have been certain periods when men and nations have shown a poverty of religious feeling, when morality was on the wane, when men were more concerned with the outward form than with the inward thought such periods have generally been followed by a return to the more normal ways of life. Man is by nature good and is always striving to live up to certain ideals which we regard as virtuous. By goodness in a book we mean not only its moral tone. Everything that goes into the making of it will in some measure determine its longevity. A book that is well written, that has every excellence of literary form, that is attractively printed and well bound, will have a decided advantage over other books which are lacking in these qualities.

Equally important with goodness is beauty. Man's inclinations are aesthetic. With him the beautiful expression, the finely-drawn picture, the delicate and artistic in character and plot will be the more favored in the effort for survival. The beautiful is eternally young, and there is nothing so appealing to man and woman as eternal youth. Again, beauty, fitness and service generally go together. Those things which have attained a higher and nobler aesthetic form, whether literary or mechanical creations, are generally found to have reached greater utility. Furthermore, man continually strives to gain happiness; and there are few things which give us more pleasure than the presence of the beautiful. Beauty, then, is another determining factor in the war for life.

It is to be noted, too, that in the economy of books certain factors, because of the importance of their role, as well worthy of attention. Wherever there is life a struggle is necessary before the better and higher attributes can successfully function and operate. Prime among these in the struggle among books is personality. There is nothing more valuable which one man can give to his fellow than himself—his

personality. It is this quality of self, this summation of the reactions of man and man, and man and nature, this interpretation of the human side of life, that is forever interesting and charming. It is this that leaves deep within us a certain feeling of pleasure or disappointment over a book long after we have forgotten its characters, its plot and its message.

Following closely upon the quality of personality is its purpose in life. De Quincey has well-divided literature into two classes—the literature of knowledge and the literature of power. The function of the first, he tells us, is to teach; the function of the second is to move. The first is a rudder, the second a sail. Each, however, has its place in life and the efficiency with which it accomplishes its purpose will determine its value, its utility and its consequent longevity.

It is interesting to note here that the rate of mortality is greater among those books which fall in the first category than among those that fall in the second. The reason for this is not far to seek. Man is a thinking animal. Always he is trying to improve his condition and his knowledge; for ever he is learning new things. This results in sharp competition, and those books which can function best in the life of man remain in this never-ending race for life, the others fall by the wayside. In the literature of power the struggle is not as keen. Human passion and feeling run in a certain channel, the depths and shallows of which have suffered but small change in man's emergence from barbarian to civilized life. There may be numerous changes in degree of feeling, but there can be but few changes in kind.

Worthy of consideration, too, is the fact that the struggle for existence is due to the high rate of increase among books. As more of them are produced than can survive, it follows naturally that a struggle must ensue. Sometimes this struggle takes place between two books of the same author, sometimes between two books in the same language, or of the same nation. Sometimes, too, boundaries of nature and language have little or no effect. More frequently the struggle is confined to books between which there is little variation, and it is quite apparent that the struggle is most severe among literary productions of the same kind. Thus, the competition between two short stories is likely to be keener than between a short story and a dramatic work. Similarly, too, the battle will be sharper between two short stories in which the element of mystery predominates, than between a short story in which

love is the axle about which the wheel of action and interest turns and one in which the element of mystery is the center of rotation.

THE PART OF THE LIBRARIAN IN THE STRUGGLE

I assume that the librarian is a bibliophile, a lover of books. What then shall be his attitude, what shall be his part in the struggle for existence among books? It has already been pointed out that utility is an important item in the continued competition for life. Man selects only in reference to his own well-being. Those books which function best in his life have, in consequence, the lowest mortality. Is the librarian, however, to assume a passive, indifferent attitude and become merely a collector, a conservator of books? Shall he be a miser, jealously watching his increasing store, thinking only in number and in little else, or an executioner giving short shrift to the worthless, the bad, the ugly, the false? Shall he become a gardener, taking out the weeds by the root, carefully watching and encouraging the growth of the higher types, helping one to overcome the other? Or shall he be a judge, weighing impartially and ever considerate of the highest good of the state and its citizens, the high-minded man, the connoisseur of books and their uses. It is a question which sooner or later confronts each of us and which demands decision. The special librarian, being of necessity a specialist, has little choice in the matter; the public librarian, being a minister of the public good, has greater opportunity for individual judgment, yet his decision can be justified only by a keen regard for the public welfare.

The need of taking an attitude, even if it be no more than an expression of individual pleasure, is obligatory. He who attempts to sail with every wind all at one time soon finds that he has a hard time to steady his boat, and that he must quickly trim his sail. The consensus of opinion among eminent men is that the librarian, like his books, must be a force for good in the state. The learned Milton, himself a great lover of books, and whose fame as a writer has overshadowed his brilliant services as a statesman, reminds us that "a good Booke is the pretious life-blood of a master-spirit, imbalm'd and treasur'd up on purpose to a life beyond life," and that we may "as good almost kill a man as kill a good Booke." Yet he urges us "to have a vigilant eye how Books demeane themselves as well as men; and . . . do sharpest justice on them as malefactors. for Bookes are not absolutely dead things"

(Concluded on page 225)

Government Libraries—Old and New

By CLARIBEL R. BARNETT

Librarian, U. S. Department of Agriculture

In any attempt to enumerate the libraries in Washington, mention must first be made of the Library of Congress. In its beautiful building on Capitol Hill and with its unrivaled collections and splendid service, it stands pre-eminent above all other libraries of the city. It is, however, too well known to need description here. Its establishment in 1800 was almost coeval with the existence of the government in permanent form, for with the removal of the seat of government from Philadelphia to Washington it became necessary to provide library facilities for the members of Congress and the executive offices of the several departments, and as a result the Library of Congress was begun. As the business of administration increased, and new departments of the government were formed, it became necessary to have a reference library in connection with each department, and later in connection with a number of bureaus of the Departments. In other words, the libraries of the Federal Government have grown out of the exigencies of its administration. Their growth and the changes in their administration make an interesting study in library history.

Previous to the establishment of the Public Library of the District of Columbia a number of Departments and Bureaus had large collections of miscellaneous literature for the benefit of their employees, but with the opening of the Public Library there was no longer a necessity for such collections. They were accordingly discarded or transferred to the Library of Congress and the Public Library. The libraries now maintained in the various government offices are confined to subjects bearing upon the work of these offices. They vary greatly in size and in their character, administration and use. The organization of the departments themselves has, of course, influenced to a great extent the development of the libraries. In certain departments the work of the various bureaus is closely related, while in other departments there is a wide divergence. Where there is homogeneity in the work of the bureaus it has resulted in the building up of department libraries, but otherwise no department library is feasible.

In the State Department there is only one library for the department. This is called the Bureau of Rolls and Library. The Bureau of Rolls has to do with the care of manuscript copies of diplomatic

papers. The library, which specializes in books on diplomacy, international law and history, is used almost exclusively by the officials connected with the department. It is the oldest department library.

While there is no department library representative of all the activities of the Treasury Department, there is a small collection known as the Treasury Department Library which consists principally of government documents, books on finance, and a few books of reference. The office of the Supervising Architect, which also comes under the Treasury Department, maintains a small technical reference library for the use of the designers and draftsmen of the office. The Public Health Service, which is a large and important bureau of the Treasury Department, has a small library devoted to medicine and sanitation at the main office of the Public Health Service, and in addition there is a very considerable collection of books on medicine, hygiene and pharmacy in the library of the Hygienic Laboratory, which is under the Public Health Service. As the various offices of the Treasury Department are scattered in different buildings, and since the subjects as noted above have little connection, it will be seen that a central library for the department would not be feasible.

There was formerly a War Department Library which was housed in the State, War and Navy Building, but in 1914 the whole collection was consolidated with the Library of the Army War College under the latter name. The Library of the Army War College is devoted to military affairs and is the working and reference library of the General Staff, U. S. Army, and of the War Department. Owing to the fact that much of its material is of a more or less confidential nature, it is not open to the general public. Other special libraries under the War Department are the Engineers' School Library, which is devoted to the subject of engineering, the Library of the Bureau of Insular Affairs, which consists of reports of legislation and laws of and relating to insular possessions, hearings before Congress, and history and progress of the government, etc., of these possessions; the Library of the Judge Advocate General's Office, which is a law library with special emphasis on military law; and last, but greatest of all, the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, comprising more than a half million books.

This splendid library is the second largest medical library in the world, the largest being that of the Paris Medical Faculty. Its collections of medical periodicals is, however, superior to that of the Paris library. The Index Catalogue of the library is well known. The library also furnishes the material for the Index Medicus. It is working now, on a medical history of the war. The question naturally arises as to why the greatest medical library of the country should be connected with a bureau of the War Department. The explanation is the fact that Dr. J. S. Billings was librarian from 1864 to 1895. Since his ability and vision resulted in the building up of such a library, one cannot but speculate as to what the combined resources of all government libraries would have been if each had been so fortunate as to have a librarian such as Dr. Billings.

Since the outbreak of the war, several new libraries have sprung up under the War Department which have to do with special phases of its work. In the Ordnance Department there are three such libraries—the Reference Library, the Nitrates Division Library, and the Engineering Division Library. There is also a library in connection with the American University Experiment Station under the Chemical Warfare Service, and one under the Signal Corps. The subjects in which these libraries specialize can be inferred from their titles. The collections are all small, hardly large enough perhaps to be dignified by the name of libraries, but the interesting part to note about them is that they have librarians in charge whose duty it is to look up the literature on the subjects under investigation, making use of other libraries and all available sources of information in the city, to digest articles of interest in newspapers and periodicals and to care for the ephemeral material such as mimeographed and typewritten reports, clippings, photographs, maps, etc.

The Library of the Department of Justice is a law library and does not differ materially from other law libraries.

The Navy Department maintains a Department Library which is still housed in the State, War and Navy Building, although the whole Navy Department, with the exception of the office of the Secretary of the Navy, has very recently been moved to temporary buildings in Potomac Park. The library is classed as one of the principal naval libraries of the world. With the library is combined the office of Naval War Records, the librarian in charge being designated as Superintendent of Library and Naval Records. Under the Navy Department there are two other

libraries of importance—the Library of the Naval Observatory and the Library of the Naval Medical School. They are widely separated and are administered independently of the Library of the Navy Department. The Naval Observatory Library is said to contain the "best collection of astronomical literature in the Western Hemisphere. It is unusually rich in its complete sets of the older serials devoted to mathematics, astronomy and physics." The Library of the Naval Medical School consists of a very comprehensive reference collection on medicine, hygiene and the related sciences. As far as I have been able to discover, only one new office library with a librarian in charge has been begun in the Navy Department since the War. This is in connection with the Bureau of Construction and Repair and is devoted to naval architecture, engineering, and machinery. Like the new office libraries in the War Department, its collection is small and consists largely of material ordinarily classed as ephemeral. It has, for example, a large collection of trade catalogues of machinery.

The Interior Department, like the Treasury Department, is made up of a number of bureaus having little or no similarity in their work, and for that reason has no Department Library. It has, however, a number of large bureau libraries of special note, namely, the libraries of the Geological Survey, Bureau of Mines, Bureau of Education, and Patent Office. Though the Geological Survey Library was not organized until 1882, it has grown rapidly and is now one of the largest geological libraries in the country. It is housed in the new Interior Department Building. Adjoining it is the extensive library of the Bureau of Mines, which has already been described in "Special Libraries."

The Library of the Bureau of Education and its useful bibliographical publications, among them the "Monthly Record of Current Educational Publications," are known to all librarians. It is a "special pedagogical library, particularly strong in official documents, both American and foreign, in school and college publications, and in files of educational periodicals and society proceedings." The Patent Office maintains two libraries, the Law Library and the Scientific Library. The latter is one of the most important scientific libraries of the city. It specializes in books and periodicals in all the industrial arts and sciences, especially electricity, metallurgy, chemistry and physics. Small library collections are maintained in connection with the Office of Indian Affairs, the Gen-

eral Land Office, the Pension Bureau and the Reclamation Service.

The Department of Agriculture Library differs in one respect from nearly all the other department libraries in that all but one of the bureau libraries under the department are administered as branches of the main library. The books and periodicals for the Weather Bureau Library are purchased by the Library of the Department, but with this exception it is administered separately. About one-third of the collections of the Library of the Department are shelved in the bureau libraries for the greater convenience of the bureaus, some of which are a considerable distance from the main library. The books are, however, all catalogued in the main library and charged to the bureaus where they are filed. In other words, the catalogue of the main library contains a record of all the library resources of the department, with the exception of the Weather Bureau. In the extent of its collections and the scope of its service it may be regarded as the National Agricultural Library. It embraces not only agriculture, agricultural statistics, forestry and rural economics, but also the sciences relating to agriculture, such as botany, entomology, chemistry, zoology, biology, etc. In meteorology and climatology, the Library of the Weather Bureau is believed to be stronger than any other library in the world.

The Library of the Department of Commerce is one of the newer Department Libraries. It was established in 1914 by the consolidation of the libraries of the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, the Bureau of Navigation, the Bureau of Lighthouses and the Steamboat Inspection Service, when these offices were moved to the new building erected for the department. As may be inferred, the library is devoted especially to commercial and statistical reports of the United States and foreign countries and all subjects bearing upon trade. It is the largest commercial and statistical library in Washington, if not in the United States. It furnishes library facilities for all the bureaus of the department, with the exception of the three scientific bureaus; namely the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Bureau of Fisheries and the Bureau of Standards, all of which are some distance from the Main Department and have their own collections. Since the outbreak of the war, the library, in addition to serving its own department, has been of the greatest assistance to the new war boards, such as the War Industries Board, the War Trade Board, the Shipping Board, and the Fuel Administration, which have had constant need of commercial and statistical reports

and have had no adequate library facilities. The library of the Coast and Geodetic Survey is particularly strong in mathematics, astronomy, tides and currents, geodesy, hydrography, terrestrial magnetism, and United States boundaries. The library of the Bureau of Fisheries is devoted to ichthyology, fish culture and the related sciences. The Bureau of Standards Library specializes in physics, technology, chemistry and mathematics.

The Library of the Labor Department is the youngest of the family of department libraries, and, as is the case of the Library of the Department of Commerce, was formed by the consolidation of bureau collections which had formerly existed separately, namely the Bureau of Labor Statistics Library and the Children's Bureau Library. It now furnishes library facilities for the whole department. It is especially strong in labor statistics and all literature bearing upon labor problems, cost of living, housing, industrial hygiene, child welfare and social insurance. The literature reviewed in the very useful Monthly Bulletin of the Labor Department is all contained in the Library of the Department. It may perhaps be well to mention here the Library of the United States Housing Corporation with which office the Bureau of Industrial Housing and Transportation of the Department of Labor is connected. This special reference library has been established since the war, through the cooperation of the School of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University. By request of the Bureau, Harvard University has placed at the disposal of the Bureau the resources of the special library of the School of Landscape Architecture and the services of its librarian. The object is not to attempt a duplication of the valuable collection on city planning at Harvard, but to use the latter as a basis, and so purchase only such material as must constantly be referred to. It contains few books and consists chiefly of pamphlet material, city ordinances, clippings, magazine articles, typewritten and mimeographed reports, and maps. It is quite probable that the library will not be continued indefinitely, as it is not expected that the work of the U. S. Housing Corporation will be needed after peace is declared.

The Library of the Superintendent of Documents Office, connected with the Government Printing Office, is made up of the publications of the United States Government. A separate branch of the office is the Cataloguing Division, where the printed catalogues of government documents are prepared. All users of public documents owe a debt of gratitude to the cataloguing force of this office, through whose painstaking

ing work these invaluable catalogues of public documents are prepared.

The libraries of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum, which is under the direction of the Smithsonian Institution, are extensive scientific libraries. The Smithsonian Institution is especially strong in the publications of learned societies and institutions, the National Museum in the natural sciences.

In addition to the department libraries there are libraries connected with a number of the Government Commissions and Boards, one of the oldest of which is the Interstate Commerce Commission Library. It is devoted principally to railroad literature and law. The Library of the Federal Trade Commission, which was established in 1914, specializes in subjects pertaining to economics, business accounting, banking, exchange, trade associations and corporation reports. Two years later, in 1916, the Shipping Board and the Tariff Commission were created. Both have small reference libraries on the subjects of special interest in the work of their offices as indicated by their titles.

The latest government board to be established previous to our entering the war was the Federal Board for Vocational Education, which was created by Act of Congress, approved February 23, 1917. The work of the Board is along two distinct lines, namely vocational education in the United States and the re-education of disabled soldiers and sailors. The library specializes in these two subjects, and in addition has a collection of general books on education which deal with vocational education. In order to keep the offices in the boards informed as to the current news on these subjects, the library sends out two mimeographed sheets, the *Library News Notes*, and *Current News on Re-education*, which digest the long articles on the work, and list all magazine articles and new books which may prove of interest.

The Columbus Memorial Library of the Pan American Union is devoted to literature on Latin America.

With the outbreak of the war a new group of government libraries sprang into existence in connection with the new government offices created as a result of the war. These are a class unto themselves and present many interesting points of comparison with the older government libraries. Mention has already been made of the reference libraries established since the war in certain bureaus of the War and Navy Departments. There remains to be described the interesting group connected with those war agencies of which we have heard so much—the Food Administration, the Fuel Administration, the War Indus-

tries Board and the War Trade Board. In the administration and investigations of these offices and in the compilation of data it was essential for them to be able to consult books, files of periodicals and reports, maps, etc. Libraries were a necessity. Since it was an impossibility for them to gather together in a short space of time the literature which they needed, it was not only wise but necessary for them to make full use of the existing government libraries. This they did. The Library of Congress was of course a tower of strength, but in addition the Surgeon General's Library, the libraries of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor, the Geological Survey, Bureau of Mines, Patent Office, and other libraries whose collections contained material of interest in connection with the investigations of the new offices, opened wide their resources to the newcomers. Without the aid of the special collections which have been built up in the various government departments and bureaus, the work of these new agencies would have been considerably hampered. It apparently soon became evident to the authorities in these new offices that it would be an advantage to have librarians to look up the literature on the various subjects under investigation and to arrange for its use. As a result, libraries with librarians in charge were established in connection with each of the new offices above mentioned. The subjects covered by these new libraries can be inferred from the titles of the offices with which they are connected. In the case of each, the library is small and consists principally of material obtained without cost. Government and state reports, pamphlets, periodicals, clippings, press releases, type-written and mimeographed reports, maps, photographs and other material classed as ephemeral, make up the bulk of the collections. The need for "up to the minute" information has been great. It is periodicals and newspapers, government reports and unprinted material which contain such information, not books. To make this material available it needed to be carefully classified and indexed. Filing cabinets have therefore been more in evidence than book cases in these new libraries. They have all had to meet new problems, in the solving of which library methods have won new laurels. In all these new government libraries the spirit of service has been predominant. It is believed that it can be truthfully said that the same spirit of service can be found in at least the majority of the older government libraries.

What will become of the new libraries created in connection with war offices of a supposedly temporary character it is im-

possible to say at this time. It is probable, however, that if the offices are discontinued, the library collections will be turned over to other department libraries to which they would be of interest or to the Library of Congress. Some may be broken up and scattered. Even so, they will not have been in vain, for they have served a very useful purpose. Taken as a whole, it may be said of the government libraries, old and new, that "they have served." In no other city of the country do the combined library resources surpass those of Washington in science, technology, commerce and agriculture. The Library of Congress and the libraries in the government departments and bureaus have been referred to as constituting the "National Library." The nation is to be congratulated that it has had at its service the resources of this "National Library" in this emergency.

The following list of the government libraries is based on a list published in a bulletin of the Bureau of Education, with some additions.

GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES

This list shows, first, the name of the library; second, the location; third, its specialty, fourth, the size; fifth, the name of the librarian.

Library of Congress. Capitol Hill.

Entire range of literature. 2,450,000 Dr. Herbert Putnam

State Department.

Bureau of Rolls and Library. State War & Navy Bldg., 17th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. Foreign relations and international law and history. 80,000 Mr. John A. Tonner.

Treasury Department.

Treasury Department Library. Treasury Department Bldg., 15th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. Finance and government accounts. 15,000 Mrs. Emma Triepel.

Public Health Service. 3 B St., S. E. Medicine and hygiene. Several thousand volumes. No librarian.

Hygienic Laboratory. 25th & E Sts., N. W. Medicine and pharmacy 8,000. Dr. Murray Galt Motter.

Office of Supervising Architect. Treasury Dept Bldg., 15th and Pennsylvania Ave. Architecture and construction. 2,000 Mr. Arthur L. Blakeslee

War Department

American University Experiment Station. American University. Chemistry. Small. Miss Mary R. Witmer.

Army War College. Foot of 4½ Street, S. W. Military affairs 100,000. Col. John R. M. Taylor

Engineer's School. Foot of 4½ Street, S. W. Engineering 60,000 Mr. Henry E. Haferkorn.

Bureau of Insular Affairs. 1800 E Street, N. W. Insular possessions. 3,000 No librarian

Judge Advocate General's Office. Mills Bldg., 17th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. Law 12,000. Mr. Arthur C. Pulling.

Ordnance Division:

Reference Library. 6th and B Sts., N. W. 7,000 Miss Jessie Boswell.

Nitrates Division. 6th and B Sts., N. W. Nitrogen fixation. Small. Miss Mabel Kebler.

Engineering Division. 6th and B Sts., N. W. Engineering 700 Miss Emily L. Day.

Signal Corps. 18th and Virginia Aves. Technical literature. Small Miss Quereaux

Surgeon General's Office. 7th and B Sts., S. W. Medicine and related sciences 588,000 Col. C. C. McCulloch, Jr.

Department of Justice.

15th and Vermont Ave., N. W. Law 50,000. Mr. George Kearney.

Navy Department.

Navy Department Library. State War and Navy Bldg., 17th and Pennsylvania Ave., N. W. Naval affairs 75,000. Mr. Charles W. Stewart.

Bureau of Construction and Repair. Navy Bldg., 17th and B Sts., N. W. Naval architecture and engineering 2,000. Miss Rebecca Ritchie.

Naval Observatory. Massachusetts Ave. and W St., N. W. Astronomy. 75,000 Mr. W. D. Horigan.

Navy Medical School. 23d and E Sts., N. W. Medicine. 47,000. Miss Theresa Henry.

Interior Department.

Bureau of Education. Pension Office Bldg., Judiciary Sq. Education. 175,000. Dr. John D. Wolcott.

General Land Office. Interior Department Bldg., 18th and E Sts., N. W. Laws and public lands. 5,500 Miss Norene Kavanaugh.

Geological Survey. Interior Department Bldg., 18th and E Sts., N. W. Geology and science. 260,000. Miss J. L. V. McCord.

Office of Indian Affairs. Interior Department Bldg., 18th and E Sts., N. W. Indians. 3,000. Mrs. W. E. Allen

Bureau of Mines. Interior Department Bldg., 18th and E Sts., N. W. Mining. 15,000. Mrs. Edith F. Spofford.

Patent Office. 9th and F Sts., N. W. Science 100,000. Mr. H. H. Brogan.

- Pension Bureau. Pension Office Bldg., Judiciary Sq. Civil War. 1,800. Mr. N. A. Strait
- Reclamation Service Interior Department Bldg., 18th and E Sts., N. W. Law, engineering, irrigation 4,000 Mr. C. A. Bissell
- Agricultural Department.**
- Department of Agriculture Library 1358 B St., S. W. Agriculture and related sciences. 145,000 (including books in branch libraries given below, except Weather Bureau). Miss Claribel R. Barnett.
- Bureau of Biological Survey. 1358 B St., S. W. Birds, mammals and hunting 6,650. Mr. W. H. Cheesman.
- Bureau of Chemistry. 216 13th St., S. W. Chemistry 6,600. Miss Anne E. Draper.
- Bureau of Crop Estimates Dept. of Agric. Bldg., The Mall Agricultural statistics. 10,000 Mrs. Ellen Painter
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- Forest Service. 930 F St., N. W. Forestry, 19,345 Miss Helen E. Stockbridge
- Office of Farm Management. 224 12th St., S. W. Farm management 9,000. Miss Cora L. Feldkamp.
- Bureau of Public Roads. 515 14th St., N. W. Roads and engineering. 4,800. Mr. M. A. Hays
- Office of the Solicitor. 1316 B St., S. W. Law. 1,700. Mr. F. D. Scott.
- States Relations Service. 220 14th St., S. W. State experiment stations. 4,500 Miss E. L. Ogden
- Weather Bureau 24th and M Sts., N. W. Meteorology. 36,000 Prof. Charles F. Talman.
- Department of Commerce.**
- Department of Commerce Library 19th St and Pennsylvania Ave., N. W. Commerce and statistics 100,000 Miss Anne G. Cross
- Coast and Geodetic Survey New Jersey Ave. and B St., S. E. Geodesy 10,000. Mr. W. A. Masker.
- Bureau of Fisheries. 6th and B Sts., S. W. Fish culture. 35,000. Miss Rose Macdonald.
- Bureau of Standards. Pierce Mill Road. Science 20,000. Mr. A. Fanti.
- Department of Labor.**
- 1712 G St., N. W. Labor statistics. 50,000. Miss Laura A. Thompson.
- Government Printing Office.**
- Superintendent of Documents. North Capitol and H Sts., N. W. U. S. publications. 225,000. Miss Helen C. Siliman, chief cataloguer; Miss Sarah Ambler, librarian.
- Senate Library.**
- U. S. Capitol. Public documents.
- House of Representatives.**
- U. S. Capitol. Public documents.
- Smithsonian Institution.**
- Smithsonian Institution Library. The Mall, B. Street, opposite 10th. Science. 275,000. Mr. Paul Brockett.
- Bureau of American Ethnology. Smithsonian Building Anthropology 35,000. Miss Ella Leary.
- National Museum The Mall, B St., opposite 10th. Natural science. 125,000. Mr. N. P. Scudder
- Pan American Union.**
- 17th St., bet. B and C Latin America 40,000 Mr. Charles E. Babcock.
- Interstate Commerce Commission.**
- 18th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. N. W. Legal and economics. 26,000. Mr. Leroy S. Boyd.
- Federal Trade Commission.**
- 921 Fifteenth St., N. W. Economics and trade 5,500. Mr. Thos. P. Ayer.
- Shipping Board.**
- 1319 F St., N. W. Shipping; technical and law books. 4,500. Mr. Jerry C. Massey.
- Federal Board for Vocational Education.**
- 601 E St., N. W. Vocational education. 2,900 Miss Isabel L. Towner.
- Tariff Commission.**
- 1322 New York Ave. Tariff and statistics 5,000 Miss Cornelia Notes.
- U. S. Food Administration.**
- 18th and C Sts., N. W. Food and food statistics Small Miss P. A. Dickey
- Fuel Administration.**
- 18th and C' Sts., N. W. Fuel and fuel statistics Small. Miss F. L. Johnson
- War Industries Board.**
- 18th and C Sts., N. W. Commerce. Small. Miss Alida C. Hawkinson.
- War Trade Board.**
- 20th and C Sts., N. W. Economics and foreign trade 800. Miss Bertha E. Pierce.

List of Pamphlets on Present-day Subjects

Compiled by EDNA B. GEARHART
Economics Division, New York Public Library

COMMERCE

After the War What? By A. Barton Hepburn. The Chase National Bank, N. Y. 1918. 16 pp.

A review of the German government and her commercial policy and the "After the War" effect it will have upon her trade and that of the Allies.

The Export Lumber Trade of the United States. By Edward Ewing Pratt. (U. S. Foreign and Domestic Commerce Bur., Misc. ser. no. 67.) 117 pp., pa., 20c '18 Sup't of Doc.

Some of the subjects discussed in this document are: "Methods of marketing American lumber for export," "Defects of present system of marketing lumber abroad," "Development of the export lumber trade."

Foreign Trade Thought of 1918. Irving National Bank, 1918. 75 pp.

This booklet summarizes the needs of the United States for the development of its foreign trade. A synopsis of addresses delivered at the Fifth National Foreign Trade Convention, held April, 1918, is given. Some of the chapter headings are "Foreign trading facilities," "American merchant marine," "World training for world trade," "International vision."

Russia. 2nd ed. Guaranty Trust Co., N. Y., 1916. 53 pp.

"This little booklet is intended to throw some light on the financial and commercial conditions of the country and particularly to indicate the progress made by the people during the decade preceding the present war."

Trade of the United States with the World, 1916-1917. Part 2. Exports. Exports of merchandise from the United States by countries and principal articles during the years ending June 30, 1916 and 1917. (U. S. Foreign and Domestic Commerce Bur., Misc. ser. no. 63.) 317 pp., pa., 20c '18 Sup't of doc.

United States Shipping Act. Guaranty Trust Co., N. Y.

The U. S. Law, approved September 7, 1916, provides for the building up of an American merchant marine, a naval auxiliary and a naval reserve. This pamphlet gives a digest of the law, its full text and the President's proclamation authorizing the seizure of German ships.

ECONOMICS

War Time Employment of Women in the Metal Trades. (National Industrial Conference Board. Research Rep't No. 8.) 79 pp., pa. The Board, 15 Beacon St., Boston, Mass., 1918.

"This report has been prepared chiefly for the information of manufacturers who contemplate the introduction of women workers into their establishments. . . . A study of the results of the employment of women in new occupations as reflected in output and other factors contributing to manufacturing efficiency, it does not discuss the broad social aspect."

FINANCIAL LITERATURE

Financing the War. By Barton Hepburn. A lecture delivered at Princeton University, Jan. 11, 1918. Princeton Univ. Press, N. J. 32 pp.

A general survey of the financial questions arising from the war, including credit, inflation and a review of past experiences and a short review of Germany's financial condition.

How Banks Serve Business. By A. Barton Hepburn. Alexander Hamilton Instn., N. Y., 1918. 21 pp.

A story of the functions of the bank and how they may be used by the public, told in a popular form of an autobiography of Mr. Hepburn.

How to Handle Your Account With a Broker. Hughes & Dier, 50 Broad St., N. Y.

Clear and concise explanations of business transactions with a broker: orders given in person, buying order (for cash), commission schedule, deposit schedule and requirements, selling orders (for cash), orders by letter, etc.

What's What in Wall Street. Hughes & Dier, 50 Broad St., N. Y. 60 pp.

A dictionary of Wall Street terms.

FOOD

Reference Handbook of Food Statistics in Relation to the War. By Raymond Pearl and Esther Pearl Matchett. (U. S. Food Administration, Statistical Div.) 124 pp. '18 Sup't of doc.

"This booklet contains authentic information concerning the food resources of neutrals as well as belligerents. It includes statistics of population, land area, crop production, imports and exports, American equivalents of foreign weights

and measures and other useful reference material—all carefully indexed."

Supplement to the Cereal Maps of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Containing statistical and diagrammatic information relating to the crops of western Canada and to the wheat situation of the world in general (Canada, Natural Resources Intelligence Branch.) 22 pp. '18 Ottawa, Canada.

MEDICAL

Report Upon Soldiers Returned as Cases of "Disordered Action of the Heart." (V. D. H. or "Valvular Disease of the Heart"—V. D. H.) (Great Britain National Health Insurance. Medical Research Committee Special Rep't, ser. no. 8.) H. M. Stationery Off. Imperial House, Kingsway, London, 1917; 63 pp.; pa.

Review of War Surgery and Medicine. (U. S. Surgeon General, Off. of. vol. 1, no. 8.) 61 pp '18 Sup't of doc.

Subjects included are: Surgical Treatment of War Wounds of the Soft Parts; Reports of Recent Congress of German Military Surgeons, Pathology of War Wounds of the Larynx and Trachea.

OIL

Standard Oil Issues. Carl H. Pforzheimer & Co 1918; 102 pp.

Detailed statistics relating to Standard Oil stocks are given in this booklet. The dividend record from 1912 to 1916 inclusive is shown, also an analysis of various companies

Standard Oil Stocks. 16th ed.; 1918. General Service Corporation, 52 Wall St, N. Y 128 pp

This booklet deals with the 1918 progress of the Standard Oil stocks, including refining statistics, growth of capitalization, etc., under war conditions

RAILROADS

Comparative Analysis of Leading Railroad Stocks. An estimate of earnings based on three-year average of net operating income, as recommended to Congress by President Wilson. J. S. Bache & Co., 42 Broadway, N. Y

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

Union List of Mathematical Periodicals. By David E. Smith and G. E. Seely. (U. S. Education Bur. Bul 1918, No. 9) 60 pp.; pa; 10c. '18 Sup't of doc

"This list is not intended to be a complete list. It is prepared for research students in mathematics. It is divided into two parts: 1st, the periodicals which relate solely to mathematics, whether journals or publications of scientific societies; 2nd, periodicals which contain mathematical articles likely to be consulted. The whole is very thoroughly indexed.

SOCIAL

The Housing Problem in War and in Peace. By Charles Harris Whitaker, F. L. Ackerman, R. S. Childs, E. E. Wood. Journ. of Amer. Inst. of Architects, Wash., D. C., 1918. 1918; 116 pp.; cloth; 8°.

"This book takes up and answers fully all questions on housing which our nation at large has been coping with since the war. "These articles are reprints from the Journal of the American Institute of Architects, issues of September, 1917 to February, 1918, inclusive."

Standards Set by the New Federal War Suburbs and War Cities. By Andrew Wright Crawford. (American Civic Assoc., ser. 11, no. 12) 24 pp. Amer. Civic Assoc., Gen. Off., Wash., D. C

Illus and diagrams of cities are included.

TAXATION

Federal Taxation on Income from Bonds of State and Subdivision. Report of a committee on municipal securities. Howard F. Beebe, Investors' Bankers Assoc

TECHNICAL LITERATURE

Boiler and Furnace Testing. Prepared by Rufus T. Strohm (U. S. Bur. of Conservation, Engineering Bul. no. 1.) 20 pp.; '18; Govt. Prtg. Off.

The Diesel Engine; Its Fuel and Its Uses. By Herbert Haas. (U. S. Mines Bur. Bul. 156.) 133 pp.; pa., '18; Govt. Prtg. Off.

"In this report the author discusses recent developments in the design and construction of the Diesel engine, the fuels suitable for burning in it, and the uses to which it is particularly adapted" Selected Bibliography, pp. 123-127.

Fuel Economy in Burning Clay Products. By A. V. Bleininger and A. F. Greaves-Walker. (U. S. Bur. of Standards) 12 pp.: '18; Govt. Prtg. Off.

"Elementary lessons worded in a way that any one may understand them."

This pamphlet is issued with the hope that it will "enable the kiln firemen as well as the owners and managing heads of plants to gain a better understanding of the subject and cause them all to co-operate to correct faulty conditions which induce waste of fuel."

Gold Dredging in the United States. By Charles Janin (U. S. Mines Bur. Bul. 127.) 226 pp.; '18; Govt. Prtg. Off.

"This document attempts to summarize the development of the gold dredge, describes the essential features of present-day dredges, discusses facts that determine whether a placer deposit can be profitably dredged, and point out the approved methods of prospecting placer ground and of operating dredges

"Of interest to designers and builders of dredges, to mining engineers and to persons who may contemplate investing capital in placer-mining ventures."

Selected bibliography on gold dredging, pp. 212-216.

Innovations in the Metallurgy of Lead. By Dorsey A. Lyon and Oliver C. Ralston. (U. S. Mines Bur. Bul. 157.) 176 pp; pa; '18; Govt. Prtg. Off.

The Mineral Industries of the United States. Power: its significance and needs. By Chester G. Gilbert and J. E. Pogue. (U. S. National Museum, Bul 102, pt. 5.) 53 pp.; '18; Gov't Prtg. Off.

"The sources of energy underlie the employment of all raw material, and this paper on power and together with those of this series on coal and petroleum are designed to present a constructive analysis of the fuel situation in the United States."

Platinum. Rules and regulations under the Act of October 6, 1917 (40 Stat 385), as amended by the Act of July 1, 1918 (Pub. 181), limiting the sale, possession and use of platinum, iridium, and palladium and compound thereof. (U. S. Mines Bur) 16 pp., '18; Govt. Prtg. Off.

Production of Explosives in the United States During the Calendar Year 1917. With notes on coal-mine accidents due to explosives tested prior to April 30, 1918. Compiled by Albert H. Fay. (U. S. Bur. of Mines, technical paper 192.) 21 pp; '18 Sup't of doc.

Use of the Hydrogen-Volatile-Matter Ratio in Obtaining the Net Heating Value of American Coals. By A. C. Fieldner and W. A. Selvig. (U. S. Mines Bur., technical paper 197.) 13 pp.; '18 Sup't of doc

BETTER BOOKS ON CHEMISTRY

[This list as well as the foreword has been prepared by Edward D. Greenman, Librarian of Arthur D. Little, Inc., Cambridge, Mass.—The Editor.]

One naturally thinks of the literature on chemistry as dry, technical and uninteresting reading. For the average man this may be true of a majority of the books on chemistry. But there are some entertaining and instructive books on this subject which will appeal alike to the chemist and to the layman. The following represent a list of books which might well be in any library. The majority of these are popular in nature; a few, however, are useful reference works.

Baskerville, Charles. Municipal Chemistry. New York McGraw-Hill, 1911 \$5.00.

This work covers the vital questions of the modern city, showing how the chemist may affect and better civic conditions. There are thirty chapters, each by a spe-

cialist in the field covered. Suited more for the specialists than for the general reader.

Bronlee, R. B., and others. Chemistry of Common Things. Boston. Allyn & Bacon, 1914 \$1.50

This book deals with the chemistry of every-day things given in the form of a text-book for students.

Byers, H. G. Inorganic Chemistry. Scribner, N. Y., 1917 \$2.25.

An excellent text-book.

Duncan, R. K. The Chemistry of Commerce. A simple interpretation of some new chemistry in its relation to modern industry. N. Y. Harper & Bros., 1907.

An excellent and very entertaining book on the wonders of chemistry, written in simple language for the layman.

Findlay, Alexander. Chemistry in the Service of Man. London, 1916. \$1.60.

Hendrick, Ellwood. Everyman's Chemistry. The chemist's point of view and his recent work told for the layman. N. Y. Harper & Bros., 1918. \$2.00.

The author discusses the general principles and applications of chemistry in a very instructive and lucid style. A keen sense of humor relieves the monotony of dry facts. This book is one of the most entertaining books on chemistry that has yet been produced for the average reader.

Lassar-Cohn, Dr. Chemistry in Daily Life. New York J. B. Lippincott, 1909 \$1.75

An entertaining account of the application of chemistry to daily life.

Liddell, D. M. The Metallurgists' and Chemists' Handbook. N. Y. McGraw-Hill Book Co 1918. \$4.00.

This is a compact handbook for the metallurgist and chemist, to be used strictly as a reference work.

Martin, Geoffrey. Triumphs and Wonders of Modern Chemistry. N. Y. D. Van Nostrand Co. 1913. \$2.00.

A popular treatise on modern chemistry and its wonders, written in non-technical language for general readers.

Mellor, J. W. Modern Inorganic Chemistry. N. Y. Longmans Green & Co 1917. \$2.50

A very comprehensive work on this subject

Moore, T. S. The History of Chemistry. New York. McGraw-Hill 1918. \$2.50.

The only modern text-book on the history of chemistry. Attempts to cover this broad field in a single well-written volume

Rogers, Allen. Industrial Chemistry. A manual for the student and the manufacturer. 2d ed. N. Y. D. Van Nostrand Co. 1915 \$5.00.

(Continued on page 230)

Special Libraries

PUBLISHED BY PRENTICE HALL, INC.,

FOR THE

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

Monthly except July and August

Publication Office, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 70 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Editorial Office, 108 Jersey St., The Fenway, Boston, Mass.

Entered as Second Class Matter, November 16, 1917, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Subscriptions (10 issues)\$2.00 a year
Single copies 25 cents

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A Library Family

A famous railroad in the United States regards its many thousand workers not merely as its employees, but as members of its family. Any person employed for six months successively and in good standing at the end of that period becomes a member of its official family. The Southern Pacific R. R. has been exceedingly proud of this family and through a development of this idea has instilled in its corps of workers a better feeling of inter-relationship and interdependence. It has reduced its labor turnover, in this step alone effecting a saving of many thousand dollars. It has broken down the wall be-

tween the officers and the men, and while the discipline essential to successful management of any enterprise has not been impaired, but rather improved, a healthy fellow feeling and a sane democracy have been developed which is proving most beneficial, for the family carries with it an idea of kinship, of brotherhood and equality, of service, of self-reliance as well as of inter-reliance.

Why should not librarians have the same feeling of family, of professional family entity and unity? During the last few years we have heard much of co-operation, of so-called sponsorship for knowledge. Latterly there has been a movement toward unionization of library employees, and in New York City the union has proceeded so far as to enter with all other trade unions of Greater New York into the arena of local politics. Are not these indications of a groping toward something which we have not but for which need apparently exists? Why should we talk co-operation when every librarian should be, and almost always is glad to give that measure of service which we are told should be the task of the co-operator? Why should we proceed to organize sponsors for knowledge, when librarians are brought up to give and generally do give to each other every measure of assistance possible? Are we trying to set up machinery for which there is no need or is there behind all this a criticism of misplaced trust, of lack of that family relationship which should be our aspiration and our goal?

In Boston a novel and constructive effort is being made to solve this problem. Through the Boston Special Libraries Association attempt is made to reach all the librarians of Boston and vicinity. Meetings are held monthly, each in a library different from the one preceding, and the person in charge of the library where the meeting is held tells of the history, the purpose, the character and methods of the library with whose successful administration he or she is charged. An insight is thus given into the resources and procedure of the various libraries, and facilities are accorded for mutual acquaintanceship and fellowship. Every effort is made to develop personal contact, and the meetings have been most successful in this respect.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES has always made it its aim to emphasize the idea of professional fraternity and its claims. This it has done both by the doctrinaire method through its columns as well as by example. Many letters come to the editors each month making inquiries of various kinds. Every effort is made to answer these promptly and fully. Sometimes where particular information has been requested, the editors

have called upon special librarians in the field, who have always willingly aided the inquirer. The present editors are glad to continue and hope to extend this service.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES is yours. Is it helping you as much as it should? It exists because it fills a definite need in the library world. Is it assisting in your problems and in your daily work?

Reconstruction and a New Outlook

The editors take pleasure in announcing that their next number will be devoted to reconstruction and the place of the library in the immediate future. Everywhere the word of the moment is reconstruction, and it seems inevitable that with the new period of industrial expansion upon which the United States as a nation will enter after peace has been made that we shall see a marked extension of the special library in business as well as a growth and development of all educational institutions, and among them the public libraries.

Much will depend on how we drive home the idea of the practical uses of the library. If we sit back and say: "Here we are—come and find us," we shall accomplish nothing. This in the main has been the cause of the failure of the work of the business branches of public libraries. They may have seen opportunities, they may have had visions, but they have lacked the purposeful action that translates visions into realities, and their business has remained an idle business. Fire existed, but it required the action of a Prometheus to bring it to earth. Goodness and morality existed before Christ, but without His teaching and His example how much slower would have been the development of moral ideas and how different the history of nations and the lives of men.

One man uses a stream to fish in, another uses the same stream to turn a saw-mill. Both are intensely happy, but one's joy ends in himself whereas the other's provides work and joy for others. Some people would make meat pies of nightingales. It all depends on the point of view. On the other hand, some men hire François Villons to write beautiful songs and then keep them busy addressing envelopes. The truth is that some men dream dreams and lack the power of organization, or spend their days like Hamlet, leashed by indecision, or through some other shortcoming never realize their dreams. On the other hand, there are men who have visions without themselves becoming visionaries, and whose continued joy is to realize not only their own dreams but who possess also the ability to make the dreams of others come true.

The great changes now going on must

and no doubt do arouse in all of us great hopes for the future. These changes affect broadly men, materials and money. They suggest a few definite questions. What is the outlook in numbers, opportunities and training for those entering the library profession in the future? Libraries, particularly the public libraries, have in many instances been faced with a serious labor problem.

What is the outlook in library economy and practice? The Mohammedans, in burning the great library at Alexandria, stated in effect: "If the information that exists here is in accordance with that in the Koran and in our religious books, then it is superfluous and should be destroyed. If the information that exists here is *not* in accordance with that in the Koran and in our religious books, then it is false and should therefore be destroyed." The dilemma which they created was false, yet the problem suggests itself, if all the classical systems of classification—the Dewey, the Cutter, the Library of Congress—were suddenly destroyed, how many librarians would be able independently to reconstruct a classification system to meet their individual needs?

The third great problem is that of finance. What is the outlook for library incomes and library earnings? Shall the normal \$50 or \$60 monthly wage remain the prevailing library wage? Shall we be satisfied with the naive statement, "We cannot compete with the business libraries?" All of these are large and serious questions. In them is involved the future of American librarianship.

The editor is not a believer in potted prophecy. For this reason he has deemed it best to call upon the country's leading librarians, whether in the public, private or special library, whether in the library school or in the administrative office, to assist with their counsel, to give to our readers the benefit of their ideas. Here is a rare opportunity to know the thoughts of others, many of whom have guided us over difficult places in the past. You will derive from a reading of this number a new hope and a new view of library work. You will find the January number worth perusal. Order your copy early. If you are not a subscriber, now is the time to send in your subscription.

The Department of Agriculture has issued a pamphlet entitled *The Business of Agriculture*. It consists of three short addresses made by Secretary Houston, Assistant Secretary Pearson, and Assistant Secretary Ousley, concerning the agricultural situation and setting forth the vital relation between commerce and agriculture.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES TO BE \$3.00 A YEAR?

As a result of the increase in costs of publication, it is probable that the subscription rate to SPECIAL LIBRARIES will be increased to \$3.00 a year. This question is to be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive Board of the Special Libraries Association on January 1. Meanwhile, subscriptions entered or renewed will be accepted at the old rate of \$2.00.

The editors have tried to make retrenchments of various kinds in the hope of effecting savings sufficient to make it unnecessary to increase the subscription price. However, with wages higher than ever before, and still increasing, and with the costs of paper and other raw materials still on the ascendant, we are forced, after much hesitation, to recommend an increase in the subscription rate, hoping that our readers will appreciate the extraordinary conditions which have suggested this course of action. The increased revenue derived will be applied, as has all the income in the past, to meeting costs of operation and to all possible improvements. The income from SPECIAL LIBRARIES goes wholly into the magazine. The editors all serve without compensation, but are nevertheless glad to give of their time and effort—and at times of their purse, as well—to making SPECIAL LIBRARIES of the greatest service to the members of the Association as well as to all our other subscribers.

Municipal Reference Library Notes for October 23, 1918, is devoted to Fire Prevention Day in War Time. The issue of November 13th is given over to Municipal Reconstruction in America, most timely and well prepared. To the resourceful, wide-awake librarian the important event or problem suggests an opportunity, and the opportunity is met promptly by its measure of unassuming yet nevertheless well-delivered service.

MORTALITY AMONG BOOKS

(Continued from page 213)

This sentiment has been re-echoed by others, and at this time, when all civilization is being weighed in the balance, and when the struggle for survival among men as among nations is most keen, the need for a clearer realization by the saner elements of society of their duty as well as their purpose in life is all the more pressing. Books by the thousands come from the press each year. How many are remembered five or ten years after they have been given to the world? The natural struggle for existence with its survival of the fittest tells its own tale and enforces its own lesson. The librarian, however, as representing the interests of the public, has a duty in the matter. Shall he meet that duty squarely or push the work on to other shoulders?

PERSONAL NOTES

Mrs. Rachel Rhoades Anderson, Pratt '11, is with the U. S. Employment Service as Junior Examiner.

Miss Marie Le Baron Andrews, N. Y. J. L. School '17-'18, is an index clerk in the office of the Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.

Miss Miriam Apple, Simmons '18, has been assigned to a position as index clerk with the A. E. F. in France.

Miss Elinor Bedlow, Simmons '17, has accepted a position with the National Bank of Commerce, New York.

Paul R. Byrne, N. Y. State '15, librarian of the National Bank of Commerce, N. Y. C., is now at Camp Sevier.

Daniel N. Handy has returned to the Insurance Library Association of Boston after a two months' absence at Camp Dix as camp librarian.

Miss Sarah L. Howell, of the United Engineering Societies Library, has resigned to join the staff of the Technical Department of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Miss Ethel M. Johnson, Simmons '10, having successfully passed the examinations of the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission at the head of the list, has been appointed Secretary of the Massachusetts Minimum Wage Commission.

Richard H. Johnston, of the Bureau of Railway Economics Library, made during the month of October a tour of the various camp libraries for the A. L. A.

Miss Mary P. Peck, Simmons '15, is assistant librarian in the library of the Bureau of Industrial Housing, Washington, D. C.

Miss Ruth Plympton, Simmons '12, is now with the Williamette Iron and Steel Works, Portland, Ore.

Miss Mary E. Yoder, Western Reserve '14, is librarian of the Export Department of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., Akron, O.

In the *Weekly Bulletin of the Department of Health of New York City*, for November 2, 1918, Dorsey W. Hyde, Municipal Reference Librarian, discusses *The Literature of Sex Instruction*.

Library Extension in Agriculture and Home Economics

By VERA M. DIXON

Assistant Librarian, Iowa State College Library

The Hatch Act, passed in 1887 by Congress to establish Experiment Stations over the country, stated that these Experiment Stations were "to aid in acquiring and diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects connected with agriculture."

The Smith-Lever bill, passed by Congress in 1914, provided that "co-operative agricultural extension work shall consist of the giving of instruction and practical demonstrations in agriculture and home economics to persons not attending or residents in said colleges in the several communities, and imparting to such persons information on said subjects through field demonstrations, publications and otherwise."

I quote these passages to show that the object in establishing the agricultural colleges, experiment stations and extension departments was to serve the entire population of the state as fully as possible, and that these activities should be confined neither to formal text-book instruction nor to those people able to spend four years in college. I believe that library extension work as outlined in the following report, is a logical outgrowth of the work thus started in agricultural education, that it would aid greatly in disseminating agricultural information, and that it should be instituted immediately because of conditions produced by the war

The problem of increased food production has recently assumed enormous proportions, and hand in hand with this has gone a campaign for increased food conservation until we have a food administration calling for the saving of 180,000,000 pounds of food stuffs per month. The Federal government has been making every effort to aid the farmer and the housekeeper in meeting the responsibilities which have suddenly been placed upon them. The U. S. Food Administration, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Land Grant Colleges are making an effort to aid them in this program which calls for enormously increased food production and food conservation.

In the present emergency the necessity for making adequate provision for carrying information directly to the people has been recognized as never before. The Food Administration, the Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Colleges are publishing bulletins on every phase of the food

problem and these are being distributed far and wide.

The importance of the part libraries can play in disseminating this information has been recognized by the appointment by the American Library Association of a Committee on Food Information, of which Miss C. R. Barnett, librarian of the United States Department of Agriculture Library is chairman and three other librarians are members, by the organization of a library section by the Food Administration and by the appointment of a library publicity director for practically every state. The American Library Association and various library organizations, including the State Library Commissions, are co-operating to the best of their ability, and through these channels a great deal of information is being sent to the libraries over the country and by them communicated to the people.

In addition to this there remains a distinct part which the libraries of the land effort to get information to the farmer and housekeeper. They have, presumably, the best collection of books in the state relating to Agriculture and Home Economics; they are in close touch with the experts on the faculties of college, the extension department and experiment station workers, and are therefore in a position to keep informed on the literature of home economics and agriculture. For these and other reasons there should be maintained in connection with agricultural college libraries an extension bureau devoted to collecting and making available the best and most recent literature on these subjects. This would constitute an authority to which people over the state could write for information and advice about the purchase of books on these special subjects and from which they could borrow books. From time to time lists on agriculture and home economics subjects could be published. This work should be done in close co-operation with the various agencies mentioned above so that there should be no overlapping or duplication of work. As an example of one of the possibilities in this direction I might mention the list of books on war gardens our library recently published. It was prepared by the college library staff at the suggestion of the Agricultural Extension and Truck Crops Departments of the college, was approved and revised by a member of the Horticult-

ture Department, published by this library and distributed by the State Library Commission to the libraries over the state.

The details of the organization of this service as we have worked it out at Ames are as follows: The library should be composed of.

I. Books About five hundred volumes should be sufficient to start with. Standard agricultural reference books and simple text-books on all phases of agriculture should be included.

II. Pamphlets. The collection should consist of state experiment station and extension reports, U S. department of agriculture bulletins, miscellaneous government reports, clippings from agricultural journals and newspapers.

III. Package Libraries. Packages of convenient size to be sent through the mail should be prepared on the subjects most likely to be in demand. Each package should consist of several bulletins and possibly a few books on popular subjects, as, for instance, baby beef, war gardens, sheep raising.

The tentative list of subjects we have selected is

1. Agriculture—
 - Animals—Care and feeding;
 - Gardening;
 - Crop production;
 - Farm buildings;
 - Soils and fertilizers.
2. Home Economics—
 - Food (including canning);
 - Clothing (including conservation)

Our collection will be lent to:

1. Individual borrowers. This will be in answer to requests received directly or through extension workers, county agents, home demonstration agents or a department of the college.

2. Leaders of clubs of various kinds, canning, baby beef, corn club, farmers and other.

3. Home demonstration agents, extension workers, county agents and garden club leaders to be distributed by them.

4. Schools, rural and consolidated. These requests will probably be handled through the agricultural or home economics teacher. A few specific examples of the use to which this collection could be put might be suggested

If a county agent were to organize a farmers' club which was interested in sugar beets, he could write to us to send him one or more package libraries on this subject. This material could be turned over to the club leader and by him lent to the rest of the club. If the agent came in contact with a consolidated school whose principal was interested in war gardens he could write us to send the principal ma-

terial on this subject. If a canning club were established, the organizer could ask us to send the leader a collection of material on canning. A home economics demonstrator could write us to send a collection of material on food conservation to a woman's club in which she was interested.

The estimated cost of establishing this service is as follows:

Salary of assistant, \$90 for 12 months	\$1,080
Equipment of room	300
Supplies (including postage) for one year	200
Books	1,000

Total \$2,580

The estimated annual cost of maintenance is:

1. Books, \$500 to \$1,000.
 2. Equipment, \$100
 3. Supplies, \$100.
 4. Postage and express, \$100 to \$200.
- Totals, \$1,300 to \$1,400.

The next question is that of obtaining funds for financing the work, and we are attempting to get Smith-Lever money for this purpose. The Smith-Lever Act provides for extension work in agriculture and home economics in the land grant colleges. Funds are allotted annually to each state by the Secretary of Agriculture, but no payment is made until the state (or some agency in the state) has made an equal appropriation. There are certain things which are specified as being purposes Federal money cannot be spent for, but this is not among them.

In 1916 the Agricultural Library at Illinois, through Dean Davenport, made an effort to obtain approval of purchase of books for library extension service from Smith-Lever funds. Dr. True refused to approve it "for time being."

This spring I wrote Dr. True again, and he replied that this decision was still in force.

Our present plan at Ames is to establish the extension work and support it from our annual library appropriation until we can obtain the use of the Smith-Lever money

In order to determine what other states are doing in library extension, questionnaires were sent to the state library commissions, the state agricultural colleges, state universities and extension departments. The questionnaire and the answers received are as follows:

Questionnaire Sent to State Universities and Agricultural Colleges

1. Do you do library extension work over the state?
2. If not, do you answer questions relating to specific subjects (e. g., home economics or agriculture) and refer

- others to the state library or library commission?
- 3. How many questions do you answer per year?
- 4. How many books do you circulate per year?
- 5. Do you have package libraries?
- 7. Do you maintain a special collection of books for this service or do you draw from your general collection?
- 8. What is the cost of the service per year?
- 9. Is your extension work the result of a definite program or simply the outgrowth of local conditions?

Number of questionnaires sent..... 69
 Number answers received..... 61

- A. 1. Number doing library extension work—39.
- 2. Number referring all questions to state commissions—4.
- 3. Number answering only specific questions—4. (However, several report that they answer "mainly agriculture" or "mainly home economics.")
- B. 1. Number of questions answered per year:
 17 do not answer question.
 7 have kept no record.
 Rest vary from Nebraska University with 25 to Kansas University with 6,897 per year.

Univ. of Nebraska.....	25
Univ. of Montana.....	85
Penn. State College.....	75
Massachusetts Agr.	100
Oklahoma Agr.	100
Mississippi Agr.	100
Univ. of Wisconsin.....	100
Univ. of Iowa.....	250
Univ. of N. Dakota.....	300
Univ. of Michigan.....	500
Colorado Agr. College....	1,053
Univ. of No Carolina.....	1,187
Univ. of Colorado.....	2,000
Univ. of Kansas.....	6,897
Univ. of Wyoming.....	600-1,000

- B. 2. Number of books circulated per year:
 12 do not answer question.
 5 keep no record.
 2 send package libraries but do not say how many. (Univ. of Indiana and Univ. of Michigan.)

Univ. of Nebraska.....	10
Agr. and Mech. College, Oklahoma.	25-35
Univ. of Maine.....	25-30
Univ. of Arizona.....	50
Univ. of Wisconsin.....	50-75
Penn. State College.....	200
Univ. of Montana.....	200
Univ. of Vermont.....	200-300
Agr. Col., Colorado (books and pamphlets)	262
Univ. of Texas	200-400
Univ. of Iowa.....	500

Univ. of Oklahoma	800
Agr. Col. of Massachusetts (books).	897
Bulletins	143
Univ. of No. Dakota.....	1,000
Univ. of Mississippi.....	1,120
Univ. of No Carolina.....	1,360
Univ. of So Dakota.....	1,500
Univ. of Ohio.....	2,400
Univ. of Colorado.....	3,500
Univ. of Wyoming.....	3,000

3. Number having special assistant for library extension work—9.

4. Number having package libraries—15.

5. Number having special book collections—10.

6.—Cost of service.

17 do not answer.

8 do not keep record.

1 says no extra cost. (Univ. of Wyoming.)

	Cost of	Cost of	Total
	Service Books		
Oklahoma Agr. Col. & Mech. Col.....	Almost negligible		
Univ. of Montana.....	\$70	\$20	\$90
Univ. of Virginia....	75	..	75
Cniv. of Oklahoma .	120	..	120
Mass. Agr. Col. . . .	norec'd	200	200
Univ. of No. Carolina	400		400
Colorado Agr. Col....			472
Univ. of Colorado .	140	300	440
Univ. of Illinois. . .	400	100	500
Univ. of Missouri....	350	300	650
Univ. of Kansas.....	\$3,500	400	3,900
Univ. of Michigan... .			1,400
Univ. of Texas.....			2,300

7. Number in which extension work is result of definite program—11.

8. Number in which program is in transition stage—21.

These vary in answer—"outgrowth of conditions," "to meet local demand," "informal," etc.

Number not answering—7.

9. Number hoping to take up work when funds permit—2.

STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION ON STATE LIBRARIES

Questionnaire for State Commissions

- 1. Do you attempt to answer specific questions on technical subjects (e. g., Agricultural or Home Economics)?
- 2. If not, do you regularly refer them to some other agency (e. g., the State University)?
- 3. Do you have specially trained assistants for this reference work, or is it done by general library assistants?
- 4. Do you have Package Libraries? On what general subjects (i. e., debate material, technical subjects, etc)?
- 5. Do you have a fixed reference collection

- from which reference questions are answered or do you depend on your general circulating collection?
6. How large is this reference collection?

Letters sent—37.

Answers received—24.

1. Number attempting to answer questions on technical subjects—13
2. Number referring them to some other agency.

A. Agricultural College—4.

B. State University—3.

C. Others—County Agent, etc., 1.
(California refers to county free libraries)

Two answer that they refer sometimes to other agencies. One that they refer to both A and B.

From the preceding it appears that of the State Universities and Agricultural Colleges answering 63% do library extension work and the number of questions answered per year runs from 25 at Nebraska to 6,897 at Kansas University. Eight have a special assistant in charge of this work and many express a wish that they could have. The University of Colorado seems to circulate the most books in a year—3,500 volumes.

The following examples show the work that is being done by other states.

University of Illinois

In 1916 drew up a plan for the organization of a library extension service and tried to get Smith-Lever funds. The request was not granted. In July, 1916, with the assistance of the state club leader of Junior Extension Service, they obtained an appropriation of \$100 from College Funds for package libraries for boys' and girls' clubs and established collections of books and pamphlets on corn, poultry, pigs, potatoes, vegetable gardening, and sent them to the clubs studying these subjects. Later they made collections on sewing and canning and sent them to the leaders of these clubs. At the end of the first year (1916) they asked for an appropriation of \$2,500 from college funds for carrying on this work. This was approved by the College Library Committee and Dean Davenport (Have had a letter recently saying this was not allowed.)

University of Iowa

Refers questions of general nature to the Library Commission, but attempts to answer questions on business and municipal questions. They served material for debates and plays for high schools.

University of Michigan

The Library of the University of Michigan conducts a well-organized library extension service. They aim to cover espe-

cially civic, economic and social questions. They have package libraries organized on these subjects. The service was inaugurated in 1916, and the first year 500 applications for package libraries were received. They have a special assistant in charge of this work. The collection consists of about 10,000 pamphlets. They spend \$1,400 annually, not counting the general librarian's time and supervision.

University of Texas

The University of Texas has a fully developed library extension service which seems however to an outsider to be partially due to the fact that the system of public libraries in the state is limited. The University has a fully developed system of package libraries with a special assistant in charge. They spend \$2,300 a year for salaries and equipment. They send material to debaters, club women, farmers and others. "During the first two years of the service the University Library loaned between 600 and 700 volumes for this purpose (library extension); but since that time there has been a tendency to restrict the demands upon the library as it became apparent to us that the field was a perfectly enormous one." Letter from Mr. John Goodwin, librarian of the University of Texas.

Massachusetts Agricultural College

The college will send out, upon request, small collection of books or "libraries" upon agriculture and related subjects to be circulated by and from the borrowing library.

At the annual conference of the Pacific Northwest Library Association, held in Seattle, September 2d and 3d, there was a section meeting of the Pacific district of the Special Libraries Association. The topic was "Special problems brought to the special library by the war."

Among those who participated were Mr. J. M. Hitt, state librarian, Olympia, Wash.; Mr. DuBois Mitchell and Miss Waller, technical librarian, both of Seattle Public Library; Miss McCrea, librarian of Northwest Steel Company; Mrs. Cobb, librarian of Portland Railway Light and Power Company; Miss Fossler, technical librarian of Portland Public Library, all of the Portland.

A new magazine, *Filing*, devoted to problems of indexing and filing, has made its appearance. It is clean-cut, snappy and to the point. It is issued from 320 Broadway, New York, and the subscription rate is \$1.00 per year. When one considers the dull, dogmatic yet highly proper literature of library technique in the past, all that need be said of *Filing* is that it is different.

BETTER BOOKS ON CHEMISTRY

(Continued from page 222)

This volume represents the work of recognized authorities in the modern methods and processes of industrial chemistry. The subject matter is essentially descriptive, including theoretical considerations necessary for a proper understanding of the subject

Rogers, Allen. Elements of Industrial Chemistry. New York D. Van Nostrand \$3.00

This is an abridgement of the previous title.

Sadtler, S. S. Chemistry of Common Things. Philadelphia. J. B. Lippincott Co 1915. \$1.75.

This book is one of the most comprehensive popular expositions of every-day practical chemistry.

Scott, W. W. Standard Methods of Chemical Analysis. A manual of analytical methods and general reference for the analytical chemist and for the advanced student. N. Y. D Van Nostrand Co 1917. \$6.00.

A compilation of carefully selected methods of analysis for the use of the professional chemist. The subjects have been presented in sufficient detail to enable one with an elementary knowledge of analytical chemistry to use the methods suggested.

Stillman, T. B. Engineering Chemistry. A manual of quantitative chemical analysis for the use of students, chemists and engineers. 5th Ed. Easton, Pa. The Chemical Publishing Co 1916 \$5 00.

A valuable work for the engineer and the chemist.

Tilden, W. A. Chemical Invention and Discovery in the Twentieth Century. London G. Rutledge & Sons 1917. 7s 6d

A fascinating, concise and readable account of the remarkable conquest of matter through clinical invention and discovery

BOOK REVIEWS

How to Handle and Develop Your Own Business. Produced and published by the A. W. Shaw Company, it is timely, well handled, and especially helpful with so many employees now in government service. It gives tested and tried methods for handling a "one-man business." It actually shows how to get started right and how to keep effective and simple records; it tells how to train employees; it shows how to write letters that pull, and letters that win back dissatisfied customers; how to advertise successfully; how to cut costs; how to file, and how to finance your busi-

ness. With the methods which have been successfully used by 149 executives, the book also contains forty illustrations of charts and forms visualizing these methods. It can be obtained with an eighteen months' subscription to *System*, the Magazine of Business, at the price of *System* alone—\$4.50.

Making the Office Pay. Edited by W. H. Leffingwell. Published by A. W. Shaw Co., Chicago, Ill., 1918. 389 pp. \$4.00 net.

For the business man who wants practical, profit-making ideas to apply in his office **Making the Office Pay**, just issued by the A. W. Shaw Company of Chicago, is one of the strongest works along this line we have yet seen. It lacks entirely any "atmosphere" of theory or conjecture, and its 382 large-size pages are crowded with tested plans, methods, and systems that make for better every-day office results. Actual investigation made possible the compilation of these plans and methods. Hundreds of offices were visited, and many hundreds of plans were sifted out to secure those which appear in the text. More than 200 illustrations complete the helpfulness of the work.

With chapters on hiring and training office help, better working conditions, short-cut accounting, and the business library, this is practically a text on up-to-date office practice. W. H. Leffingwell, author of "Scientific Office Management," and well-known efficiency engineer, is the editor.

Guld, the Cavern King. By Mary L. B. Branch. Published by Sherman, French & Co., Boston, Mass., 1917. 175 pp.

A beautiful tale for children and older persons. The travels of little Guld, king of the cavern-dwellers, the lives and manners of his kobolds, the unwilling departure of Guld, his return, and the final going forth of himself and his people are told in most entertaining manner, the story continually increasing in interest with the progress of the plot. A wise Christmas gift and designed best for the children's library

The Bureau of Railway Economics has prepared and just issued a 53 page bibliography on *Winter Service on Railroads*. The list covers material since 1870 and is devoted to (1) maintenance of way in winter in the U. S.; (2) operation in winter; (3) snow fighting on electric roads; (4) winter service in Alaska and Canada, and (5) winter service in Europe. Copies of the list can be secured from the Library of the Bureau of Railway Economics, Washington, D. C.

COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES

By Helen G. Estey

(Concluded from last month's issue)

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